
OUR CHILDREN, THEIR FUTURE: EDUCATION VISION AND STRATEGY

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At their meeting of 8th September 2016 Community Services Committee noted the development of *Our Children, Their Future*, the new Education Vision and Strategy, referring the final strategy to full Council for approval. The Vision and Strategy was subsequently approved by Council on 29th September 2016. As part of the approval process it was agreed that the draft Vision and Strategy document would be formatted and published in both electronic and hard copy formats.
- 1.2 The purpose of the paper is to advise Elected Members that *Our Children, Their Future*, the Education Vision and Strategy final document was officially launched by Education Services on the 16th of January 2017. The vision and strategy document is the blueprint for the Service to effectively respond to the changing National and Local policy contexts and, in doing so, ensure the future delivery of an Education Service which supports our children, young people and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The strategy sets out:

- The policy context;
- The key ambitions for our children, young people and communities;
- The Education vision;
- An overview of the Education Services Strategy;
- Cross cutting themes;
- Our 6 Key objectives;
- How services will action the strategy;
- How we will report on outcomes, and
- The proposed approach to monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Education Strategy.

1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- a) Note the official launch of the Education Vision and Strategy which is now the main driver for delivery of the Education Service in Argyll and Bute;
- b) Note that all new and future policy and procedures within the Education service will be based on the vision and strategy within *Our Children, Their Future*;
- c) Note the future engagement timeline in regard to *Our Children, Their Future*, and

- d) Note all improvement and reporting will be related to the six key objective.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At their meeting of 8th September 2016 Community Services Committee noted the development of *Our Children, Their Future*, the new Education Vision and Strategy, referring the final strategy to full Council for approval. The Vision and Strategy was subsequently approved by Council on 29th September 2016. As part of the approval process it was agreed that the draft Vision and Strategy document would be formatted and published in both electronic and hard copy formats.
- 2.2 The purpose of the paper is to advise Elected Members that *Our Children, Their Future*, the Education Vision and Strategy final document was officially launched by Education Services on the 16th of January 2017. The vision and strategy document is the blueprint for the Service to effectively respond to the changing National and Local policy contexts and, in doing so, ensure the future delivery of an Education Service which supports our children, young people and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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- The policy context;
 - The key ambitions for our children, young people and communities;
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 - Cross cutting themes;
 - Our 6 Key objectives;
 - How we will report on outcomes, and
 - The proposed approach to monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Education Strategy.
- 2.3 The strategy will become the basis for all policy development within Argyll and Bute Education Service and all future policy will be related to driving forward the 6 Key objectives:
- Raise educational attainment and achievement for all;
 - Use performance information to secure improvement for all children and young people;
 - Ensure children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
 - Equip young people to secure and sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life;

- Strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement, and
- Strengthen leadership at all levels.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Official Launch

Our Children Their Future was launched by Cllr Rory Colville, Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning on the 16th of January 2017 at Tarbert Academy, a 3 -18 school who work with a range of community partners who support the work of the school. At the launch the Head Teacher supported by staff, pupils, the youth services worker and community members through interactive presentations demonstrated Tarbert Academy's approach to the delivery of the 6 key objectives.

Following the official launch the finalised publication of *Our Children, Their Future*, the finalised document was:

- Issued to all Head Teachers for dissemination and discussion with the whole school staffing and wider school community;
- Discussed with Secondary Head Teachers at a planned meeting on 17th January;
- Printed and distributed in hard copy format and individual reference cards to all secondary establishments.
- Communication with local and national press has taken place via the Council's Communications Team.

4.2 Engagement Timeline

4.2.1 Engagement of all Stakeholders January - March 2017

Throughout January and February 2017, *Our Children, Their Future* has been planned as a feature of team meetings/development days for all aspects of the Education Service, for example, Early Years' Team meetings, Area Principal Teachers meeting, Youth Services Team meeting, Psychological Services Team meeting, centrally deployed Education Staff Team meetings.

During the February 2017 in-service day, schools have been asked to host a session for all staff on *Our Children, Their Future* to discuss and agree how they will work together to make an effective contribution in delivering the ambitions of *Our Children, Their Future* whilst ensuring improved outcomes for children and young people across Argyll and Bute. This will include the use of a standardised power point presentation aimed at providing a consistent message for all participants.

In addition a range of engagements with groups of children and young people both at school level and authority level will be set up.

Further presentations will be made to:

- Parent Council Chairs;
- Members of the Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership;
- Third Sector and Communities Group, and
- Area Community Planning Groups.

4.2.2 April / May 2017 Improvement Planning and Reporting Cycle

All services will be supported to use *Our Children, Their Future* as a strategic direction for improvement planning and reporting. This should be set against the 6 key objectives.

4.2.3 June 2017 Initial Evaluation Activity

- Visits to establishments by the central Education team.
- Discussions with Parent Council Chairs and young people to engage in developing the vision and strategy.
- Formation of a multiagency strategy group including all aspects of the Education Service to support evaluation and reporting of the agreed outcomes, as well as to plan further developments.

4.3 6 Key Objectives

- There are clear priority actions identified under each of the key objective outlined within the Vision and Strategy;
- It will be the responsibility of all within Argyll and Bute Education Services to deliver improved outcomes under the key objectives;
- All services within Education will be supported to use *Our Children, Their Future* as a strategic direction for their improvement plan.
- All future reporting, across educational establishments and other Education Services, will be against the 6 key objectives.

4.4 Next steps

The following action will also be taken

- The information in section 5 that provides an overview of the cross cutting themes, key objectives and associated priority actions will be developed as a strategy on a page, and produced in poster form, and
- Work will now be progressed to produce a summary version of the strategy for parents along with a format that is accessible to children and young people.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The education Vision and Strategy presents an opportunity for Education Services to effectively respond to the changing National and local policy contexts to ensure the future delivery of an Education Service which supports our children, young people and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes. It is important that *Our Children, Their Future* is shared widely, understood by all and used as a working document to shape and improve the delivery of education services across all areas.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | This strategy presents an opportunity for the Education Service to effectively respond to the changing policy context at both National and Local levels. |
| | | The strategy makes an effective contribution to SOA outcomes 3 and 4. |
| 6.2 | Financial | None |
| 6.3 | Legal | None |
| 6.4 | HR | None |
| 6.5 | Equalities | The Education Vision and Strategy clearly sets out the contribution Education Services will make contribution to the main tenets of the Scottish Government's vision for Education to address educational inequalities. |
| 6.6 | Risk | None |
| 6.7 | Customer Service | Engaging pupils, parents and communities to further develop and implement the vision and strategy. |

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/argyll_bute_vision_strategy_final_web.pdf